

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, October 22, 2004*

## MPDC ENCOURAGES "TRICK-OR-TREATERS" OF ALL AGES TO PRACTICE HALLOWEEN SAFETY THIS YEAR

The warnings probably sound familiar to experienced "trick-or-treaters"—of all ages. But with Halloween falling on a weekend this year and likely to involve a larger celebration, it's a good idea for young people and adults to keep some basic safety tips and precautions in mind. In selecting costumes for the young ones, bright, reflective and flame-retardant materials are a must, as are comfortable, well fitting shoes. Instead of masks, which can restrict vision, youngsters are encouraged to get creative with face paints. To promote their safety while walking, trick-or-treaters are reminded to stay on the sidewalk and to cross only at the corner (never between cars). Motorists need to slow down and be on the lookout for children. Homeowners are encouraged to turn on exterior lights and clean up any debris near their property that children could trip on. And, of course, youngsters should never go into peoples' homes, talk to or accept rides from strangers, or eat any goodies before their parents have a chance to inspect them back at home. Adults who will be celebrating Halloween this year are reminded that the MPDC and other law enforcement agencies in the region will be on the lookout for drunk drivers.

## AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT TICKETS CAN NOW BE REVIEWED AND PAID ONLINE

Nobody likes to get a traffic ticket in the mail. But now, motorists who receive automated enforcement tickets for speeding aggressively or running a red light in DC can review the violation photographs online via a password-protected website. And if they choose to pay the ticket, motorists can now do that over a secure website as well. Beginning this past week, automated enforcement citations that go out in the mail include both the ticket number and a unique PIN (personal identification number) for accessing the violation images online, at [www.public.cite-web.com](http://www.public.cite-web.com). Only by entering both the ticket number and the PIN will motorists be able to access the website, which includes color, enlargeable copies of the violation photos and basic details about the violation. If the motorist elects to do so, he or she can pay the ticket using a credit card on the Department of Motor Vehicles' online ticket payment center ([www.dmv.dc.gov](http://www.dmv.dc.gov)). The new automated features, which are free of charge, do not replace current adjudication procedures. Motorists who receive automated enforcement tickets can still contest them via mail or an in-person hearing with DMV Adjudication Services. Motorists can also choose to pay their tickets via mail or in person at the appropriate DMV facility. Complete instructions on ticket adjudication are printed on the back of all automated enforcement citations.

- ① A comprehensive list of Halloween safety tips and resources is available at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/halloweensafety.shtml>
- ① Any "stranger-danger" threats to children—on Halloween or any other time of the year—should be reported immediately to the police by calling 9-1-1. Suspicious candy or other non-emergency situations should be reported through the 3-1-1 non-emergency number.
- ① All MPDC police districts, as well as many community groups, business associations and others, will be hosting Halloween parties. Parents should consider these as an alternative to door-to-door "trick-or-treating" for their children. For info on MPDC-sponsored Halloween events, contact your local police district.
- ① Free taxi rides home for Halloween revelers are available on both October 30 and 31 through the SoberRide program, (800) 200-TAXI, or online at:  
<http://www.soberride.com>
- ① Read the news release at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2931>
- ① Learn more about the MPDC's red-light camera intersection safety program at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtml>
- ① Details on the photo radar speeding reduction initiative are at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtml>

## OPERATION FIGHT BACK HELPS TO CLEAN UP 6D COMMUNITY...IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

“Operation Fight Back” is a multi-agency strategy that saturates a neighborhood with city services for a day in a concerted effort to clean up the conditions that can lead to crime. During a recent “Fight Back” in the Sixth District, however, officers succeeded in taking a more immediate bite out of crime. Sergeant Denise Calhoun led a team of officers who were setting up for two separate safety compliance checkpoints in the Eastland Gardens area. Soon, officers had recovered an illegal weapon—the 1,575th firearm seized by MPDC this year—towed an unregistered vehicle and made an arrest from the confiscation. Officers believed they might be able to link the weapon and suspects to a more serious offense that had occurred in 6D. With local representatives from the US Attorney’s Office on hand, officers were careful to preserve the evidence from the investigation. Led by the Ward 7 CORE Team, the Eastland Gardens “Fight Back” resulted in the impoundment of seven vehicles and the ticketing of several others, the removal of almost five tons of trash, numerous building inspections and the subsequent abatement of violations.

## COACHES AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE WORKS TO COMBAT YOUTH CRIME

Each day in the US, eight young people die as a result of gun violence. That’s why, for the second year in a row, DC high school football and soccer coaches are teaming up with principals, teachers, students, community leaders and the MPDC in a public awareness campaign to curb gun violence involving young people. The program is called “Coaches Against Gun Violence,” and it is working to prevent tragedies such as the killing last October of Devin Fowlkes, a 16-year-old student who was shot and killed by a stray bullet as he was leaving Anacostia High School in Southeast. A 15-year-old was subsequently arrested and charged in Devin’s murder; he was allegedly shooting at other individuals in the area and hit Devin in the chest. Devin’s mother, Marita Mitchell, has become actively involved in the gun violence prevention movement in DC, and is now joining the “Coaches Against Gun Violence” program as well. During halftime at selected football and soccer games in DC, dedication ceremonies are being held to remember the young victims of gun violence and to encourage young people and adults to stop the violence. The two-year-old program, which is operating in both DC and Oakland, CA, is organized by the DC-based Alliance for Justice to help school communities raise awareness for the prevention of gun violence.

## NEWS & NOTES

**29 New Officers Hit the Streets.** Chief Ramsey on Friday swore in the 29 newest members of the MPDC, during a recruit graduation ceremony in Northwest. The new officers recently completed their 24-week training course, and have been assigned to neighborhood patrols in the seven police districts. The new officers are part of the recent hiring by the MPDC to bring its sworn strength up to 3,800 members.

**New PSA 607 Created.** Six months after restructuring its Police Service Area (PSA) boundaries citywide, the MPDC has made one adjustment in the Sixth District: PSA 605 has been divided at Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, and a new PSA 607 has been created in the area south of the dividing line. There are now seven PSAs in 6D and 45 PSAs citywide. For more information on the organization and activities of the Sixth District, click on <http://www.mpdcc.dc.gov/info/districts/6th/main.shtm>.

**Chief Ramsey on WOL’s “Live at Five.”** Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls from 5-6 pm, on Wednesday, October 27, during his monthly appearance on the “Live at Five” program on WOL 1450-AM. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/media/media.shtm>.

- ① Read the complete success story at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/6th/ss\\_fightback\\_1004.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/6th/ss_fightback_1004.shtm)
- ① Addressing quality-of-life conditions that can breed crime is an important part of the MPDC’s Policing for Prevention strategy. To learn more about DC’s approach to community policing, visit:  
<http://www.mpdcc.dc.gov/ppp/methods.shtm>
- ① Do you have a community policing success story in your neighborhood that you would like to share with the rest of the city? Email your write-ups to Marsha Hott in the MPDC’s Policing for Prevention Unit at:  
[marsha.hott@dc.gov](mailto:marsha.hott@dc.gov)
- ① Learn more about Coaches Against Gun Violence at:  
[http://www.allianceforjustice.org/student/against\\_violence/index.html](http://www.allianceforjustice.org/student/against_violence/index.html)
- ① For other school safety and violence prevention resources, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/schoolsafetylinks.shtm>

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	<b>as of 10/22/04</b>
◆ 2004: 160	
◆ 2003: 201	
◆ % Change: -20.4%	
◆ Closure Rate: 56.3% (90 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	<b>week end. 10/16/04</b>
◆ Total: 833	
◆ Drugs: 161	
◆ Weapons: 29	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 16	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 31	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	
◆ Arrests: 56	week end. 10/16/04
◆ Curfew Violations: 36	week end. 10/19/04
◆ Truants: 229	week end. 10/19/04
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	<b>as of 10/20/04</b>
◆ October: 86	
◆ 2004 Total: 1,611	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	<b>as of 10/22/04</b>
◆ 2004: 38	
◆ 2003: 55	
◆ % Change: -30.9%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC’s Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**